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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY.

23rd May.—For the second night in succession there was no enemy raid on Britain.

24th May.—The Royal Air Force bombed Cologne. " Invasion ports " were also attacked and a merchant vessel and a tanker hit.

25th May.—While on patrol over the North Sea the Royal Air Force attacked two enemy vessels; one is believed to have been sunk and the other damaged.

26th May.—The Royal Air Force concentrated its attacks on convoys off the Dutch, German and Danish coasts and a number of enemy ships were severely damaged.

28th May.—The Royal Air Force raided Cologne, aerodromes in France and enemy naval bases. Direct hits were scored on an enemy vessel of 5,000 tons in a convoy off Brest.

Enemy activity over Britain was on a small scale and no bombs fell on London for the 17th night in succession.

29th May.—Only one was killed and a few injured when bombs were dropped on a densely populated district of Liverpool. British bombers were active over a north German coastal area and made a daylight sweep along the French coast.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN.

23rd May.—British Imperial troops captured Gelub, 25 miles north-west of Sciasciamanna, taking over 800 prisoners. Further west they established a bridge-head over the river at Billate and entered Warage, 30 miles south of Dalle, and Hula, 22 miles south-east of Dalle.

British submarines sank an enemy troopship (9,000 tons), a tanker (7,000 tons) and probably also a destroyer; they also accounted for an enemy schooner used for carrying ammunition and hit a smaller one.

24th May.—The Lake District in Abyssinia was being gradually cleared of the enemy. Two German columns that tried to advance through the " Hell-Fire " Pass on the Egyptian frontier were knocked out, 11 tanks being captured by the British in 48 hours. The Royal Air Force made a heavy attack on Benghazi.

25th May.—Free French and South African bombers harried Italian troop concentrations in Abyssinia. The Italians admitted the loss of a destroyer and a torpedo boat in Eastern Mediterranean.

26th May.—As a result of British operations round Soddu in Abyssinia, four Italian divisions ceased to exist. General Liberatti and General Baccari were taken prisoner along with thousands of Italians. Abyssinian Patriot troops captured 800 prisoners in the Magdala area.

28th May.—British troops withdrew temporarily from " Hell-Fire " Pass in the face of pressure by numerically superior forces. Thousands of prisoners were taken by the British Imperial troops in the Lake District in Abyssinia. The Royal Air Force heavily raided Benghazi. British submarines sank four big enemy ships, including an 18,000-ton liner carrying 3,000 enemy troops to Libya.

29th May.—Abyssinian Patriot forces surrounded Baco in Libya. The British made a successful sortie from Tobruk. The Royal Air Force bombed the harbour of Sfax in Tunisia. Britain rejected the French Government's protest on this question and warned Vichy against allowing enemy ships to use Tunisian waters.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC.

24th May.—Col. Knox, United States Secretary of the Navy, said the war " is a fight for the control of the high seas and God help us if we do not bear our share in that fight for the control of the seas and against human slavery." *The New York Times* also wrote in the same strain.

25th May.—Admiral Raeder, Chief of the German Navy, took exception to the help rendered by American North Atlantic Patrols to the British Navy.

27th May.—Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State said that Reader's threat was true to the Nazi pattern—an integral part of the programme of world conquest by force.

Mr. Knudsen, Chairman of the United States War Production Board, said the United States must match the aggressor nations with tank for tank and plane for plane.

28th May.—President Roosevelt proclaimed a state of unlimited national emergency. In a broadcast to the nation he promised to take all possible measures to ensure delivery of supplies to Britain.

Mr. Roosevelt asked Congress for appropriations totalling 3,319 million dollars for new aircraft for the Army and the Navy. The House of Representatives passed legislation continuing Mr. Roosevelt's emergency monetary powers.

29th May.—Mr. Roosevelt conferred with Lord Halifax and the British economic expert, Mr. J. M. Keynes. At a Press Conference Mr. Roosevelt said that measures to enforce freedom of the seas were quite compatible with the Neutrality Act.

The United States Secretary of Agriculture said that America would supply butter to Britain.

The United States Secretary for War announced that America would train 8,000 Royal Air Force airmen from June.

The Senate approved legislation permitting Government to take over 80 foreign ships lying idle in United States harbours and sent it to White House for signature.

GREECE AND ITALY.

23rd May.—German airborne troops landed at Heraklion and Retimo were accounted for by the Allied troops in Crete; the enemy continued to exercise control over Malemi aerodrome.

24th May.—The Allies cleaned up Heraklion and Retimo; and a fierce battle for Malemi was in progress. British fighter-planes reappeared over Crete and accounted for many German troop-carrying planes.

25th May.—The King of Greece and his Government moved from Crete to Egypt in order not to hamper military operations. The Germans indulged in indiscriminate bombing of Canea, Heraklion and Retimo.

26th May.—The British took several hundred German prisoners and the Royal Air Force inflicted heavy losses on German aircraft. New Zealand troops hit back hard when the Germans moved forward in the Malemi area under cover of darkness. It was announced that Royal Marines were with the British forces in Greece.

27th May.—German troops, reinforced by airborne detachments, launched an attack in the area west of Canea in Crete. Four British destroyers and two cruisers were sunk but the enemy's attempts to prevent seaborne reinforcements reaching the British troops in Crete were frustrated. The Germans also lost two caiques and two E-boats.

28th May.—Reinforced by further airborne troops the Germans made some progress in the Canea sector. The Royal Air Force made heavy attacks on the aerodrome at Maleme.

29th May.—Fierce hand-to-hand fighting was reported from Crete. While the German claim to have captured Canea was not confirmed in London, it was announced that the British had taken up positions east of Suda Bay.

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, ETC.

23rd May.—The lawful Regent Abdul Ilah returned to Iraq with a view to forming a new Government. Meanwhile the British forces beat off an enemy counter-attack on Falluja and were themselves within 20 miles from Baghdad.

Col. Collet, the brilliant French Commander and creator of the Circassian Legion, left Syria for Palestine in order to join the Free French Forces.

24th May.—The Royal Air Force machine-gunned the aerodrome at Mosul.

The Ankara Radio announced that the frontier between Syria and Palestine had been closed.

25th May.—Rashid Ali, the Iraqi usurper, fled from Baghdad; other rebel Ministers made for Iran. The Regent Abdul Ilah, in a proclamation to the people of Iraq, asked for assistance in overthrowing the rebels. The British gained control of all the dykes of the Upper Euphrates. Some hundreds of French troops crossed from Syria to Palestine to join the Free French Forces.

26th May.—Successful British sorties against Military objectives in Ramadi and bombing and machine-gunning by the Royal Air Force of enemy aircraft in Mosul aerodrome and at Baguba were reported. The Royal Air Force also raided the Syrian air base of Palamyra.

27th May.—It was revealed that British motorized troops were operating east of the Euphrates in the rear of Baghdad. German help to the Iraqi rebels was now a mere trickle.

28th May.—Syria and Lebanon were declared enemy-occupied territories in an announcement by the British Ministry of Economic Warfare.

29th May.—It was officially announced that the Imperial troops were closing in on Baghdad.

SHIPPING.

24th May.—The battle cruiser *H.M.S. Hood* was blown up due to an unlucky hit in the magazine when British naval forces attacked German naval forces off Greenland. The German battleship *Bismarck* received damage.

26th May.—The pursuit of the *Bismarck* and other German warships in North Atlantic continued and British torpedo bombers scored a hit on the *Bismarck.*

27th May.—The *Bismarck*, Germany's latest battleship, was sunk after a grand chase by British naval forces, torpedoes from aircraft on the *Ark Royal* finding their mark. The British battleship *Prince of Wales* received slight damage in the operations and a destroyer sunk.

The United States Maritime Commission placed a contract for the building of 123 merchant ships at a cost of £60,000,000.

President Roosevelt signed the Auxiliary Naval Ships Bill, authorizing the construction of about 58 naval auxiliary vessels, totalling 550,000 tons at an estimated cost of 350 million dollars.

THE FAR EAST.

23rd May.—The Chinese recaptured Chuki in Eastern Chekiang while Chinese columns reached the outskirts of Foochow. Japanese airmen bombed Chengtu and a few other cities.

24th May.—The Chinese Communist leader announced that Communist troops were moving to the support of the Central Government's forces fighting the Japanese in North China. Chinese forces registered important successes in counter-attacks on a wide front; they took Waiyang and Poklo in Kwangtung Province.

26th May.—Major-General A. C. Percival, General Officer Commanding, Malaya, said that the claim of British Imperial garrisons in the Far East stretched from Malaya to Borneo.

29th May.—The Japanese War Minister conferred with Army Generals on "the grave situation in Japan."

VICHY.

23rd May.—Admiral Darlan, in a broadcast said : "The German Chancellor has not asked me to deliver the Fleet. He did not ask for colonial territory, nor did he ask me to declare war on Britain."

The United States received specific assurances (it was learned in Washington) that French co-operation with Germany would not extend into the Western Hemisphere.

24th May.—General de Gaulle's headquarters in London denounced the Vichy Government as Hitler's puppets and said "The French nation would welcome any such action as the British Government deem necessary to defend our common interests."

26th May.—Laval had a ten-hour interview with Hitler and then broadcast an appeal to America not to withhold help from the Vichy Government.

28th May.—The French Government reassured the United States Government in writing that the French Fleet and Colonies would not be surrendered to Germany or any other power.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES.

24th May.—Himmler, the German police chief, returned to Germany after establishing the familiar terror apparatus of the Nazi machine in Norway.

28th May.—An Anglo-Norwegian agreement concerning the employment of Norwegian armed forces in the United Kingdom was signed in London.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (RUSSIA, SPAIN, EIRE, ETC.)

23rd May.—Members of the Eire Government conferred with the Opposition parties on the situation arising from the probable introduction of conscription in Northern Ireland.

26th May.—Premier de Valera, Mr. Cosgrave (Opposition Leader) and Mr. Norton (Labour Leader), speaking in the Irish Dail, appealed to Britain not to introduce conscription in Northern Ireland.

27th May.—Mr. Churchill announced in the Commons that the proposal of conscription for Northern Ireland had been dropped, Mr. de Valera, Mr. Cosgrave and Mr. Norton welcomed the British decision.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 20th May 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrol activity (not specifically mentioned) over North-West European Coastal Waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
May 14, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day torpedo-plane attacks on convoy off Dutch coast (5,000-ton merchantman hit).	Nil.	..
May 15, Thursday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweeps over English Channel and N. France (1 merchantman on fire). R.A.F. day bomber raid on convoy off Frisian Islands (3 merchantmen, totalling 11,000 tons, on fire). R.A.F. night bomber raids on Berlin; industrial objectives at **Hanover**; docks at Hamburg and Cuxhaven; submarine bases at L'Orient and St. Nazaire; invasion bases at Ymuiden, Calais, Boulogne and Dieppe.	1 day bomber. 4 night bombers.	2 day fighters. 1 troop-carrier.
May 16, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping off Norwegian coast (2,500-ton merchantman sunk). R.A.F. night bomber raids on industrial objectives at **Cologne**; invasion bases at Boulogne and elsewhere along French and Dutch coasts. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	2 night bombers.	..
May 17, Saturday.	R.A.F. night bomber raids on **Cologne**; invasion bases at Rotterdam, **Boulogne**, **Calais**, Dunkirk; gun emplacements at Cap Gris-Nez.	Nil.	..
May 18, Sunday.	R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at **Kiel** (submarine and shipbuilding yards); docks at Emden. R.A F. and Fleet Air Arm night bomber raid on invasion base at **Cherbourg.**	Nil.	..
May 19, Monday.	(No reports.)	..	..
May 20, Tuesday.	(No reports.)	..	..

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 20th May 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attack (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European Waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
May 14	Nil.	1 night bomber. 1 night raider.
May 15	Nil.	1 day bomber.
May 16	1 day fighter (pilot safe).	7 day fighters. 2 night bombers.
May 17	Nil.	1 day fighter.
May 18	Nil.	1 day fighter. 2 night bombers.
May 19	4 day fighters (3 pilots safe).	5 day fighters. 1 day bomber.
May 20	Nil.	1 day bomber.

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TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The news of the week is of course the great battle of the North Atlantic involving the loss to Great Britain of the battleship *H.M.S. Hood* and loss of *Bismarck* to Germany. It was a great battle. While the loss of *H.M.S. Hood* is serious, the loss to Germany of *Bismarck* (with 2,000 men on board) is more serious still because England possesses many more battleships than Germany and the presence of *Bismark* in the Atlantic would have been a danger to British convoys from America. It is also reported that four supply ships proceeding to Libya have been torpedoed and three of them sunk for certain.

The Greek Government have moved from Crete to Egypt. There have been severe bombings of three of the principal towns in Crete by the Germans though this has not been attended with great loss of life. The battle is still raging between the troops landed in Crete by air and the Imperial forces assisted by Greek soldiers. The issue is still in the balance and the situation serious, but sea landings of German troops have been entirely interrupted though this has cost England four destroyers and two cruisers.

So far as Iraq is concerned, Rashid Ali's influence is now definitely waning. He is himself not in the scene of operations, while the former regent H.R.H. Emir Abdul Ilah has returned to Iraq and is expected to form a Government of his own.

A striking message has been issued by Mr. Churchill to the people of England, asking them to stand firm and carry on in the event of invasion. This message is the introduction to a leaflet entitled "Beating the Invader," millions of copies of which are being distributed.

Since the beginning of the war up to the middle of May, 561 German and Italian ships of a total tonnage of 2,783,000 have been sunk, captured or scuttled, it was learned in official circles in London this week. The German ships number 346 of a tonnage of 1,773,000, of which 61 of 274,000 tons were captured or seized and 285 ships of 1,499,000 tons were sunk or scuttled. A further 38 ships 67,000 tons of other countries which had been sailing on behalf of Germany have been disposed of by one means or other. The enemy is still trying to run the British blockade by sea. Between April 23 and 30, 14 German ships and 19 Italian ships were accounted for. Between March 13 and May 14, bombers of the Coastal Command had sunk or directly hit 61 vessels off the enemy coast or enemy occupied coast.

The early part of this week was full of speculations regarding the contents of President Roosevelt's fire-side talk on Tuesday. Demands were made that a state of national emergency should be declared, the safety of supplies to England should be assured by convoys, and that larger and more rapid deliveries of ships and planes should be made to Great Britain. In the meanwhile, Admiral Raeder, Commander-in-Chief of the German Navy, warned America that any interference by the United States in the North Atlantic would be viewed in an extremely grave fashion by Germany and he said that that would be a plain act of war and unprovoked aggression against Germany. The Patrol System has already resulted in serious losses to Germany and it is no wonder that Admiral Raeder is apprehensive of further American aid in this direction. The reply of Mr. Cordell Hull to this threat was characteristic. This, he said, was true to the Nazi pattern and the warning, he pointed out, was an integral part of the Nazi programme of world conquest by force.

The decision not to introduce conscription in Northern Ireland has been welcomed as a wise move calculated to ensure good relations between Eire and Great Britain.

VICHY'S BETRAYAL

There is consistency in the attitude of Germany towards France. Imperial Germany tried to establish German influence in Morocco to the detriment of France in the belief that after the military defeat of France, the occupation of that country would be maintained and hardships of the population progressively increased as a means of forcing Britain in turn to abandon the struggle against Germany. Nazi Germany now thinks along the same lines. In the circumstances, France could either decide to endure captivity, privation and oppression in the hope of eventual triumph of

her abandoned ally and her return to glory, or she could place herself entirely at the disposal of Nazis on the ground that sufferings had become intolerable and resistance would postpone national recovery. Marshal Petain and Admiral Darlan have chosen the path of collaboration and agreed to participate in the new Golden Age promised by Hitler in which France would be a handmaid of Germany, supplying her with raw materials and ceasing industrial development altogether. The outlines of the dishonourable bargain are being revealed to the public gradually. Of course, the German press says that the French Government had agreed to the passage of German troops through unoccupied France, French colonies and mandated territories, but the Syrian development is only one part of a vast military design and by agreeing to it, the dishonoured Government is licking the hand that smote it. Of course, Admiral Darlan has broadcast to his people that the French fleet will not be surrendered, that no part of colonial territory will be handed over, that French sovereignty will be maintained and Germany has not asked France to declare war on Britain, but everybody knows that if the screw is tightened up, the Petain Government would be obliged to give way in these respects also because Germany, so far as France is concerned, has full military co-operation as part of a plan to defeat Britain. If France has not declared war against England, it is because England has scrupulously avoided taking offensive action against any part of the French Colonial Empire. The aim of the Germans is, therefore, to create a situation in some parts of the French Empire by calumny and misrepresentation.

Admiral Darlan is grateful that the victor who could have deleted France from the map of Europe has not done so. France presumably is grateful to Germany and so she will collaborate with her in all Nazi designs! M. Laval has spoken at last in downright fashion and has not tried to cover up the real intentions of the Petain Government. 'France wants peace' he says, 'to overcome unemployment, poverty and disorders, to construct socialism.' Appealing to America, he asks whether that country is going to paralyse France which is on the way to national resurrection. Resurrection, indeed! It is misuse of a great word. Total collaboration of which M. Laval spoke means perpetual bondage to Germany. What this full collaboration means has been made public by a message received in India, according to which Admiral Darlan has decided to reconquer the territories of Chad, of Gabon and the whole of French Equatorial Africa, held at present by the Free French. These French territories are strategically very important as they are on the route taken to transport American war material to the Eastern Mediterranean. And Gen. de Gaulle is equally determined that this reconquest by the French Quislings shall not happen.

The Free French will not be shaken by all these acts of betrayal. General de Gaulle has stated that the Vichy Government are Hitler's puppets and that the Free-French forces would approve any action taken by the British Government which would frustrate the plans of the French Quislings. It is a matter of great significance that Colonel Collett, a brilliant French Commander in Syria, has crossed into Transjordan from Syria *en route* for Palestine accompanied by a number of other Frenchmen and this secession is likely to increase with every surrender on the part of the Petain Government. Reports of the defection of French troops are also reported from Syria. There is abundant evidence that the French nation is not with the Petain Government. French workers hate the policy of rapproachment with Germany. In almost every street corner, it is said, the De Gaulle sign, that is the Cross of Lorraine, is chalked on houses. Petain is worked out and is in the main not more than a figure, a man physically and mentally incapable of resisting the constantly increasing German pressure.

RUSSIA

Reports have been received in the last few days about a fresh understanding between Germany and Russia. It is said that Russo-German negotiations may be expected soon and the belief is based partly on the fact that the massing of troops was the Hitler prelude to "talks". Hitler, as is well known, wants wheat and oil and therefore, it is said, he will demand economic concessions from Russia, perhaps also full Soviet military co-operation in the Middle East in return for a promise to recognise the Persian Gulf as a Soviet sphere of influence. In this sphere perhaps India and Japan may be included. An outlet to the Persian Gulf *via* Iran may also be given to Russia in return for a guarantee of the present Russian frontiers in Europe. Ukranian wheat and Caucasian oil, it is believed, would be given to Germany in return for German machinery and heavy industrial products. Hitler is concerned about American participation in the war and therefore he would like to confront Britain and the United States with a Europe completely under his domination and with full access to Russian raw materials. Of course, Turkey would be completely surrounded, bringing her within Hitler's grasp without a struggle. It is clear, therefore, that all is not well with Russo-German relations, especially because deliveries of oil in 1940 fell short of the promised supply. How does Stalin look at the whole matter? He fears Germany's mechanised power. Significant preparations are being made for a German invasion of Ukraine, which would offer an excellent terrain for Hitler. Therefore Stalin is interested in playing for time, at any rate during the summer. It will be his object to make a bargain which would leave his future powers of resistance intact. So far as Germany is concerned, she is perhaps a little

nervous that she has alarmed Russia unduly or too soon. German propaganda has, of late, been less severe on Russia because she would like to try Turkey and Spain first and then Russia. Both sides are, therefore, preparing and both desire to avoid hostilities and therefore, are ready for a deal. It is possible that Germany would desire Stalin to assist her by withdrawing his diplomatic support from Turkey and acquiescing in German control of the Straits and the Black Sea, by acquiescing in a rebel regime in Iraq under German control and by assisting in the dispersal of Imperial troops by moves in the direction of Iran and Afghanistan. Has such an agreement been already made? Has Turkey been the object of diplomatic negotiations between Russia and Germany? The large scale spring manœuvres at Tashkent near the Iranian frontier suggests that something may have been done in this direction. Iran will be at the mercy of Russia by this means. If this is so, Stalin has given away little and has placed himself in a position from which he can make even more concessions should circumstances force him to do so and also forestall the Germans in Iran. By moving into Iran Stalin would oblige Hitler by containing British troops in India and safeguard himself against complete German control of the Persian Gulf. So, what is the position? It is difficult to be precise in a matter of this kind but it may be said that Stalin's attitude, motivated by selfishness, is inspired by the ultimate hope of aggrandisement at the expense of both the sides in the present conflict. Germany will use all means short of war to intimidate Russia to give her supplies which are so necessary for her. Stalin on his part will realize his own weakness and will be prepared to give to the fullest extent possible major concessions so long as he can avoid hostilities with Germany. There is of course nothing to indicate that Russia has any designs on Iran, Afghanistan or India. Such concessions as he would make to Germany in respect of these countries would be to contain the Indian and British troops in Iraq and the Middle East.

RASHID ALI'S REVOLT CRUMBLING

Welcome news comes from Iraq where Rashid Ali's revolt is crumbling. He is reported to have fled Baghdad and is credited with the intention of either going to Turkey where his Minister of Defence, Shaukat, has already fled or of trying to make a last stand at Mosul. Other confederates are said to be seeking asylum in Iran.

German help to Rashid is also dwindling and the flow of Nazi aeroplanes across Syria is now a mere trickle compared to earlier deliveries. The Germans in Ankara openly admit that Rashid's coup was bound to fail because it was premature; trouble in Iraq, according to them, was not to develop until the Germans had taken Crete and Cyprus. And they have not done so.

Meanwhile the British, Indian and other Imperial Forces in Iraq continue to advance on Baghdad. They have beaten off an enemy counter-attack on Falluja; they control all the dykes of the Upper Euphrates and can flood the country if they will, thus making things difficult for the enemy; and British motorized units are reported to be operating east of the Euphrates, in the rear of Baghdad. The Royal Air Force has not been idle and the base at Mosul especially has received attention at its hands.

With the return of the lawful Regent, H.R.H. Emir Abdul Ilah, attempts are being made to form a new Government, drive out Rashid and his band of usurpers and restore friendly relations with the British. The Regent has issued a proclamation, calling upon the people of Iraq to rise and throw out the rebels. There is no doubt that they will do so.

THE FINAL STAGE IN ABYSSINIA.

British Imperial troops are rapidly mopping up the last remnants of Italian resistance in Abyssinia. The Lake districts are being cleared of the enemy and prisoners are pouring in in hundreds and thousands. General Cafarati, commanding the 25th Italian division, surrendered with all his men. The British captured Gelub, 25 miles north-west of Sciasciamanna, the former Italian air base, taking over 800 prisoners. Further west they established a bridgehead over the river at Billate and entered Warage and Hula, south of the important road junction of Dalle. As a result of British operations near Soddu, four Italian divisions ceased to exist, thousands of prisoners being captured. These included General Liberatti, commanding the 25th Division, and General Baccari, commander of the 101st Regiment. Not to be outdone, the Abyssinian Patriot Forces, led by British officers, captured a force of 800 Italians in the Magdala area between Dessie and Gondar. And finally a large Italian column in the north, which had escaped into the mountains from Debra Markos at the beginning of April, fell to a joint force of Sudanese and Abyssinian Patriots. Among the prisoners captured were 570 Italians, 5,000 colonial troops and 300 Banda; and seven guns and 170 machine-guns were among the booty. Evidently the surrender of the Duke of Aosta, the Commander-in-Chief, is having its effect on Italian morale and Abyssinia will soon be rid of the last Italian soldier.

Early this week, in Libya, the Germans made an effort to advance through "Hell-Fire" Pass on the Egyptian frontier in two columns. But they were knocked out, the British capturing 11 tanks in two days. Later, however, in the face of pressure by

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THE BATTLE FOR CRETE

STRATEGIC CENTRE OF EAST MEDITERRANEAN

A fierce battle is now raging in Crete, "the Great Greek Island", as it is known. The Germans are attempting a conquest by air-borne troops as the British Navy has effectively prevented the landing of enemy forces from the sea. The British Imperial and Greek troops are defending the Island, led by that great New Zealand Commander, Major-General Freyberg. And Mr. Churchill has promised that Crete will be defended to the last.

The Germans as well as the Allies realize the importance of this home of one of the most ancient civilizations. After Sicily, Sardinia and Cyprus, Crete is the largest island in the Mediterranean. Its north-eastern extremity, Cape Sidero, is about 110 miles distant from Cape Krio in Asia Minor, the islands of Carpathos and Rhodes lying in between; its north-western, Cape Grabusa, is within 60 miles of Cape Malea in the Morea. Crete thus forms the natural limit between the Mediterranean and the Archipelago. It controls all egress from the Aegean Sea and neutralises the Fascist forces in the Dodecanese Islands. It is also an important advance base for the protection of that other strategic island, Cyprus, "the key to Western Asia", and of the Levant. Finally, it is only 300 miles from the Great British Naval Base of Alexandria. As *The Times* writes, "Crete is a prize worth sacrifices. Its importance in the defence of Egypt and of our naval liberty of action in the Eastern Mediterranean needs little emphasis at this stage. Alike for the defence of his gains in the Archipelago and—what is far more important—for the offensive against Egypt, it would prove invaluable to the enemy. Its loss would not have a decisive effect upon the maintenance of the Mediterranean Fleet at Alexandria, but it would seriously hamper every naval operation and increase the manifold perils which Admiral Cunningham has continually to face."

IMPORTANCE OF SUDA HARBOUR

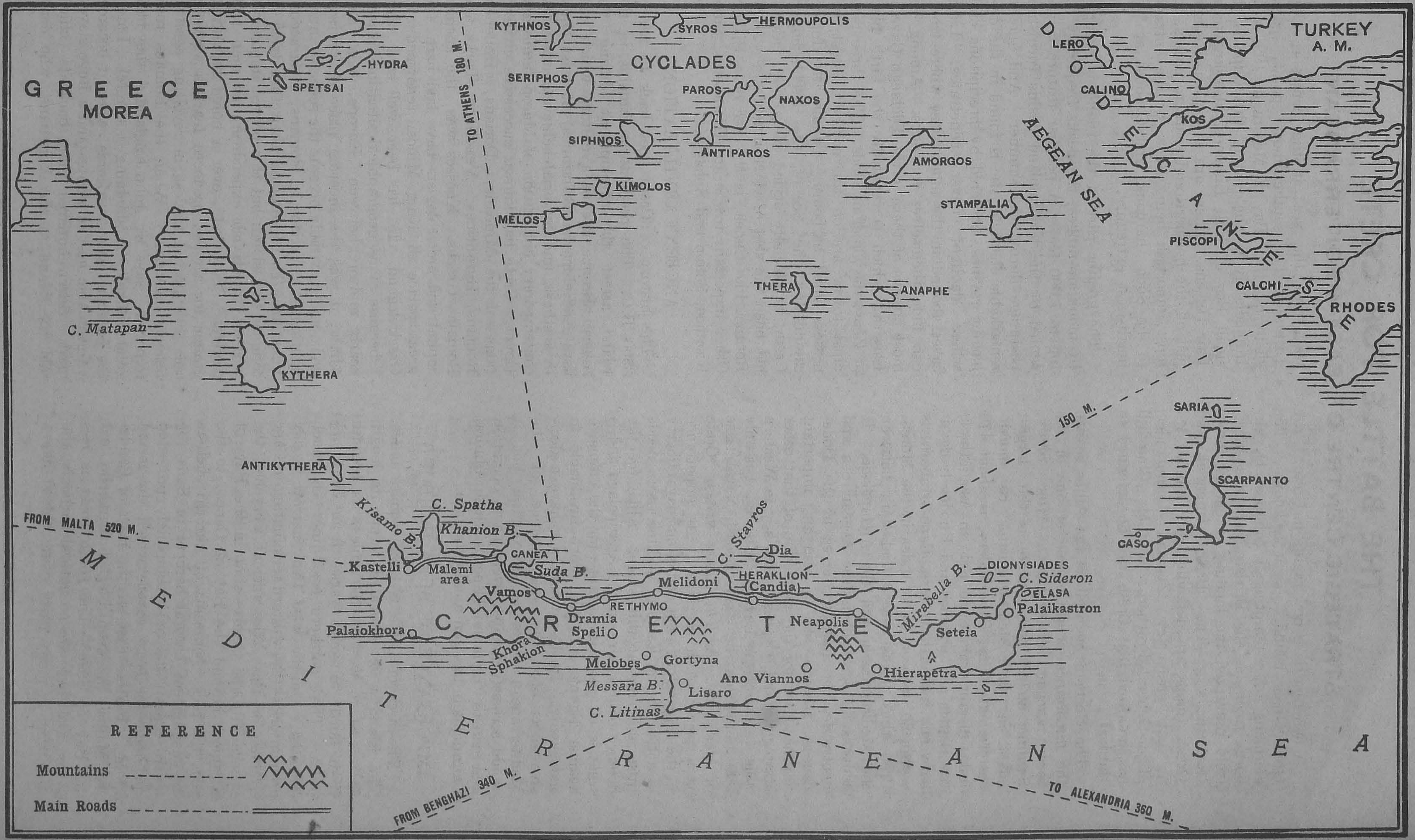
The area of Crete is 3,320 square miles. The island is of elongated form; its length from east to west is 160 miles, its breadth from north to south varies from 35 to 7½ miles. The northern coast-line is much indented. On the west two narrow rocky promontories—the western terminating in Cape Grabusa or Busa (the ancient Coryens), the eastern in Cape Spada—shut in the Bay of Kisamos; beyond the Bay of Canea, to the east, the rocky peninsula of Akrotiri shelters the magnificent natural harbour of Suda (8½ square miles), the only completely protected anchorage for large vessels which the island affords. Farther east are the Bays of Candia and Mallia, the deep Bay of Mirabello and the Bay of Sitia. The south coast is less broken and there are no natural harbours, the mountains in many parts rising almost like a wall from the sea; in the centre is Cape Lithinos, the southernmost point, partly sheltering the Bay of Mesara in the west. Immediately to the east of this Cape is the small Bay of Kali Limenes, also known as Fair Havens. There are a few small islands just off the northern and southern coasts, the most important being Suda, at the entrance to the Suda harbour; and Grabusa at the north-west extremity.

The greater part of the island is occupied by mountain-ranges, the peaks frequently rising to 7,000 feet. A peculiar feature is presented by the level upland basins furnishing pasturage during the summer. And another remarkable characteristic is found in the deep narrow ravines, bordered by precipitous cliffs where daylight never penetrates. Large caves abound in the mountains, where troops can hide themselves for days. Among the most famous of these is the Dictaean Cave in Lassithi, which is reputedly the birth place of Zeus, the Chief of Gods. The three principal towns are on the northern coast and possess small harbours. Candia, the former capital and the See of the Archbishop of Crete, is officially styled Heraklion. Canea has been the seat of Government since 1840; Retimo, like Canea, is the See of a Bishop. Other important towns are Hierapetra, Sitia, Kisamos, Selino and Sphakia.

ANCIENT CIVILIZATION

The history of Crete goes back to nearly 3500 B.C. The pre-historic remains in the island attest the development during the Aegean Bronze age of a culture which was says Encyclopædia Britannica) at least equal in aesthetic and material achievement to the contemporary civilization of Mesopotamia and Egypt. Crete has known successive civilizations—of the Minoans, Dorians, Hellenes, Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, Turks and Romaic Greeks. Knossos was the ancient capital and archæologists have laid bare the great palace of King Minos, renowned in Greek legend. It has been well said that "because of its geographical situation, placed nearly midway between Europe, Asia and Africa, it was the meeting place of civilizations, and inevitably became the scene of much fighting. Egyptians, Romans, Saracens, Venetians, Turks—each in their turn tried to conquer the island, but this proved impossible without the lavish expenditure of men and money." For Crete, ever a noted recruiting ground for armies, produced fearless warriors and they proved tireless in revolting against foreign masters. "When the Romans rose to power," says Mr. John England, "they had great difficulty in subduing it (Crete). Later the Saracens were over-lords, when it became a formidable nest of pirates and a huge slave-mart. Seven hundred years back its chief sold the island to the Venetians, who con-

OUTLINE MAP
OF
THE ISLAND OF CRETE
Scale 1 Inch = 32 Miles



Reg. No. 62/1 Copies 1800

Heliozinco., Survey Office, Madras. 1941.

trolled it for 400 years. They made the island prosperous, although revolts were many. The Cretans thought the Turks would help them to gain liberty and the island finally fell to them, some of the people becoming Mahomedans. Candia, the former capital, withstood one of the most astonishing sieges in history, lasting 20 years. Last century was marked by much unrest." In the early years of the present century the Cretan Assembly voluntarily voted for union with Greece, hoisted the Greek flag and set up a committee to govern the island in the name of the King of Greece. But it was not till 14th October, 1912, the eve of the first Balkan War, that Venizelos, then Greek Premier, admitted the Cretan deputies to the Greek Chamber. At last, Article 4 of the Treaty of London (1913) ceded Crete to Greece, to which it belonged by race, language and spirit. Since that time the history of Crete has been merged in that of Greece. And when last month the British Imperial and Greek Armies carried out their magnificent evacuation of Greece under a barrage from German dive-bombers, the Greek Government moved to Crete and decided with their Ally, Great Britain, to defend the last free Greek territory from the Nazi hordes. Major-General Freyberg, V.C., the Commander of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, who did splendid service in the last war, especially in the Gallipoli campaign, was placed in charge of the Allied troops who kept vigil against any surprise invasion.

BATTLE BEGINS

And on Monday, the 19th May, the Germans launched an airborne invasion and the Battle for Crete began in grim earnest. The first detachments of airborne troops landed on Monday night near British airfields, which had been evacuated the previous day. Fighting round Suda Bay developed into a battle on Canea road. Then further landings were made near Candia and Retimo by troops, armed with machine-guns, in gliders. After landing, the Germans kept contact with their air force by wireless. On Tuesday, further troops arrived in seaplane gliders. Some of these were sunk by fire from guns on the beach near Retimo but German soldiers, who made a landing, scattered into forests where they lay low and later re-formed into units. Taken together, it is estimated that Crete has witnessed the biggest airborne invasion the Germans have ever attempted. The primary German objective is to capture Suda Bay and drive the defenders into the interior. The defenders have had three weeks to establish themselves, but that is a short time to equip an army and fortify the island. Allied forces proceeded to clear the enemy out of Heraklion; they also cleaned up the Germans who dropped at Retimo, but the Germans, reinforced by further airborne troops, claimed to have recaptured both. And they are also in control of the Malemi aerodrome where they are under withering fire from the Allies holding positions to the east. And New Zealand troops hit back hard when the Germans moved forward in the Malemi area under cover of darkness. British troops have withdrawn to positions east of Suda Bay. Hitler is mercilessly throwing men and material into the battle; and as fast as his parachutists are cleaned up, he sends more of them to death. The British Navy, of course, sees to it that no German vessels approach the coast. The Navy has performed prodigies of heroism but not without sacrifice. Four destroyers and three cruisers have been lost in the relentless duel with the enemy air force; two battleships and several cruisers have also been damaged, though not seriously. But the Navy has the consolation of knowing that not only have enemy attempts to make seaborne landings on Crete frustrated but British reinforcements are reaching the island all right. And the Germans, besides losing numerous aircraft, have also lost E-boats and caiques (small boats used by Greek sailors). A large enemy convoy, comprising several caiques and small merchantmen, escorted by a destroyer, was completely broken up or sunk by British light forces during the pitch-dark night of May 21–22. "We sank them", said the Captain of a British cruiser afterwards, "with four-inch guns and pompoms. Cruisers and destroyers rammed them. The sea was full of thousands of Germans clinging to the wreckage and shouting for help. The havoc we wrought was so great that no German managed to land in Crete that night."

"WE CAN HOLD CRETE"

And British long-range fighters, operating from bases outside the island, have now made a welcome reappearance over Crete after being temporarily withdrawn and have accounted for a large number of German troop-carrying Junkers planes. The Germans have taken to terroristic tactics; Canea, Retimo and Heraklion have been subjected to mass bombing attacks by waves of aircraft. The ferocious display of indiscriminate bombing has been compared to the destruction of Rotterdam earlier in the war. But the population of Crete has remained admirably calm, with a bravery worthy of the citizens of London. The King of Greece and the Greek Government, whose headquarters received special attention from German dive-bombers, have temporarily left Greece for Egypt this week in order not to handicap military operations. Everything points to the grim battle continuing with even greater intensity. "I think we can hold Crete," said Major-General Heywood, Chief of the British Military Mission to Greece, on his return from Crete; but Hitler is staking his all on this adventure. He has used a thousand troop-carrying planes and has landed 30,000 troops. The British Imperial Troops are giving a magnificent account of themselves in fierce hand-to-hand fighting. And whatever happens to Crete, they have already written a most glorious page in military history.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S PROCLAMATION

AMERICA ACTS

The eagerly expected " Talk " of President Roosevelt has been made. He has declared the existence of an unlimited national emergency in a proclamation which reads as follows :—

" Whereas the succession of events makes plain that the objectives of the Axis belligerents in such a (present European) war are not confined to those avowed at its commencement but include the overthrow throughout the world of the existing democratic order and world-wide domination of peoples and economies through the destruction of all resistance on land, sea and in the air, and whereas indifference on the part of the United States to the increasing menace would be perilous, and common prudence requires that for the security of this nation and of this hemisphere we should pass from peacetime authorisations of military strength to such basis as will enable us to cope instantly and decisively with any attempt at a hostile encirclement of this hemisphere or the establishment of any base for aggression against it, as well as to repel the threat of predatory incursion by foreign agents into our territory or society, now, therefore, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, do proclaim that an unlimited national emergency confronts this country which requires that its military, naval, air and civilian defences be put on a basis of readiness to repel any and all acts or threats of aggression directed towards any part of the Western Hemisphere.

" I call upon all loyal citizens engaged in production for defence to give precedence to the needs of the nation to the end that a system of Government that makes private enterprise possible may survive. I call upon all loyal workmen as well as employers to merge their lesser differences in the larger effort to ensure the survival of the only kind of Government which recognizes the rights of labour or capital. I call upon the loyal State and local leaders and officials to co-operate with the civilian defence agencies in the United States to assure our integral security against foreign directed subversion and to put every community in order for the maximum productive effort with the minimum of waste and unnecessary friction.

" I call upon all loyal citizens to place the nation's needs first in mind and in action to the end that we may mobilize and have ready for instant defensive use all the physical powers, all the moral strength and all the material resources of this nation."

Under the new national emergency powers, President Roosevelt may commandeer radio stations, power houses and conduits, demand preference for troops on any transportation system and suspend trading on securities' exchanges. These are only a few of the broad powers which the President can exercise by individual proclamation. Only Congress has authority to declare war.

HITLER'S OBJECT

About Hitler's ultimate object of world domination, Mr. Roosevelt said :—

" Our Government knows what terms Hitler, if victorious, would impose. They are indeed the only terms on which he would accept a so-called ' negotiated ' peace. Under those terms Germany would literally parcel out the world hoisting the Swastika itself over vast territories and populations and setting up puppet governments of its own choosing, wholly subject to the will and policy of a conqueror."

" To the people of the Americas, triumphant Hitler would say, as he said after the seizure of Austria and after Munich and after the seizure of Czechoslovakia, ' I am now completely satisfied. This is the last territorial readjustment I seek.' And he, of course, would add, ' All we want is peace, friendship and profitable trade relations with you of the New World."

" They would have fastened an economic stranglehold upon our several nations. Quislings would have been found to subvert the Governments of the Republics and the Nazis would back their fifth column with invasion if necessary. I am not speculating on all this. I merely repeat what is already in the Nazi book of conquest. They have planned to treat the Latin American nations as they are now treating the Balkans. They have planned then to strangle the United States of America and the Dominion of Canada."

" Under the Nazis even our right of worship would be threatened. The Nazi world does not recognise any God except Hitler, for the Nazis are as ruthless as the Communists in the denial of God. What place has religion which preaches the dignity of the human being and the majesty of human souls in a world where moral standards are measured by treachery, bribery and fifth columnists? Will our children too wander off goose-stepping in search of the new God?"

" We do not accept and will not permit this Nazi ' shape of things to come.' It will never be enforced upon us if we act in the present crisis with the wisdom and courage which have distinguished our country in all crises of the past."

" The Nazis have taken military possession of the greater part of Europe. In Africa they have occupied Tripoli and they are threatening Egypt, the Suez Canal and the Near East. But their plans do not stop there. For the Indian Ocean is the gateway into the East."

"They also have armed power at any moment to occupy Spain and Portugal and that (Nazi) threat extends not only to French North Africa and the western end of the Mediterranean but also to the Atlantic fortress of Dakar and to island outposts in the New World—the Azores to Cape Verde."

As regards the immediate danger to America, Mr. Roosevelt said :—

"The war is approaching the Western Hemisphere itself. It is coming very close home. Control or occupation by Nazi forces of any island in the Atlantic would jeopardise the immediate safety of portions of North and South America and of the island possessions of the United States and ultimately of continental United States itself."

FREEDOM OF THE SEAS

Once the Dictators took command of the seas they will have the power to dictate to the Western Hemisphere. This ought to be prevented; and if the Axis powers fail to gain control of the seas, "they are certainly defeated." Their dreams of world domination will then go by the board and the criminal leaders who started the war will suffer inevitable disaster. The Battle of the Atlantic must therefore be won if the freedom of the seas is to be retained and the serious shipping losses of Great Britain prevented. Of this the President said :—

"The blunt truth is this—and I reveal this with the full knowledge of the British Government—the present rate of Nazi sinkings of merchant ships is more than three times as high as the capacity of British shipyards to replace them. It is more than twice the combined British and American output of merchant ships to-day."

ACTION BY UNITED STATES

This can be combated by speeding up and increasing the U.S. ship-building programme which is being done. The menace is also being met by the patrol system about which Mr. Roosevelt said :—

"We have accordingly extended our patrol in the North and South Atlantic waters. We are steadily adding more ships and planes to that patrol. It is well-known that the strength of the Atlantic Fleet has been greatly increased during the past year and is constantly being built up. These ships and planes warn of the presence of attacking raiders on the seas—under and above. The danger from these raiders is greatly lessened if their location is definitely known. We are thus being forewarned and we shall be on our guard against efforts to establish Nazi bases closer to our hemisphere."

As regards supplies to Britain, the President said :—

"Our patrols are helping now to ensure delivery of immediate supplies to Britain. All additional measures necessary for delivery of goods will be taken. Any and all further methods or combination of methods which can and should be utilized are being devised by our military and naval technicians who are working out and will put into effect such new additional safeguards as may be needed. *The delivery of supplies to Britain is imperative. This can be done, it must be done and it will be done.*"

PEACE AIMS

President Roosevelt made the following declaration about peace aims :—

"To-day the whole world is divided between human slavery and human freedom, between pagan brutality and Christian ideals. We choose human freedom which is the Christian ideal. None of us can waver a moment in this courage or faith. We will not accept a Hitler-dominated world. And we will not accept anything like the post-war world of 1920 in which Hitlerism can be planted and allowed to foster. We will accept only a world consecrated to freedom of thought and expression, freedom of every person to worship God in his own way, freedom from want and freedom from war. Is such a world impossible of attainment? The Magna Carta, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and every other milestone of human progress —were ideals which seemed impossible of attainment—but they were attained. Are we with all we know and with all our potential strength to hesitate to take every single measure necessary to maintain our American liberties? Our people and our Government will not hesitate to meet that challenge."

Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, speaking two days later also spoke of reconstruction after the war and the sentiments which he expressed have a great significance. He said :—

"No one should suppose that we intended to return to the chaos of the old world. When peace came, we should make such relaxations of war-time financial arrangements as would

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TALKING POINTS

(*Continued from Page* 7)

numerically superior forces, British troops temporarily withdrew from the Pass. Enemy columns advanced eastwards in the Sollum area but British forward troops continually harassed the enemy. And the British will doubtless stem and then turn back the tide of German advance whenever General Wavell decides to do so. And the British garrison at Tobruk has again made a successful sortie, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. The Royal Air Force continues to hammer away at Benghazi, preventing large-scale reinforcements reaching the enemy by sea. And British submarines have accounted for four big enemy ships, including one of 18,000 tons which was carrying 3,000 enemy troops to Libya.

TIME MARCHES ON

In April 1940 just before the Nazis launched their treacherous attack on Scandinavia, Britain and France presented what the world believed to be a very formidable front to a single-handed Germany. Belief in the power and qualities of the French army, and in the defensive strength of the Maginot Line, was so general that long-planned Nazi intrigue found in many places a fertile ground in apathy.

Britain had defeated the first phase of the submarine menace. Though German air-power was suspected, none of the combatants had yet indulged in large-scale operations which would test front-line qualities and the reservoir of industrial production. In the United States of America many talked of a "phoney war" and possible stalemate.

In May 1940 Germany had already seized coveted Scandinavian bases, and the Allied forces withdrawn from Norway to reinforce the western danger-zone faced an attack not only unprecedented in its weight, but one which used new tactics in mechanized assault and in fifth-column disruption. New forms of tank-warfare had in some quarters been foreseen, even if they had not been adequately prepared for. What shocked the whole world was the extent and thoroughness of organized treachery among the victims marked out by the Nazis. In one country after another brave fighting men were stabbed in the back. The white ants of defeatism and corruption gave the Germans a swift series of victories, and only the immortal exploit of Dunkirk relieved the picture of catastrophe.

In July 1940 Britain stood alone, her sea routes and approaches laid open by the defection of France, her armies without equipment, her position in the Mediterranean gravely threatened by the Italian jackal who had already scented the German tiger's kill. No text-book of history or strategy could have predicted survival in an hour so dark.

In May 1941, the transformation which appears is little short of miraculous. Fresh territories have been mercilessly overrun by the enemy, and with the aid of treachery the German bid to retrieve Italian disasters has opened new danger-zones. But the island which should have been battered into defeat last September still stands and gives back blow for blow, and the American giant has been roused from his slumbers.

Nothing could be more eloquent of the change that a year's prodigious labour and sacrifice has wrought for the British cause than the steady permeation of defeatism into the speeches of the now friendless German Fuehrer who so recently was promising his driven people complete and speedy victory.

MR. ROOSEVELT'S PROCLAMATION—(*Continued from Page* 11)

permit the revival of international trade on the widest possible basis. We should hope to see the development of a system of international exchange in which the trading of goods and services would be the central feature. The liberated countries and, may be, others would require an initial pool of resources to carry them through the transitional period. Social security must be the first object of our domestic and foreign policy after the war. It would be our wish to work with others to prevent starvation in post-armistice period, currency disorders and wide fluctuations of employment, markets and prices.

"Germany," said Mr. Eden, "must play her part, but we must never forget that Germany is the worst master Europe has yet known. Our political and military terms of peace will be designed to prevent the repetition of Germany's misdeeds." No one could foresee when the end would come, but it was in the nature of a machine so rigid as the German to break suddenly and with little warning. In speaking of the reconstruction of Europe he did not overlook the fact that the settlement might affect and be affected by developments elsewhere such as for example the Far East. A lasting settlement and internal peace of the continent as a whole was our only aim.

REACTIONS

In Great Britain and the Dominions the "talk" has had a very good reception. Mr. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, has called it great, noble and momentous, while the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Mackenzie King, said that the lifeline now stretched from America to Great Britain. In England the comment is that President Roosevelt has cleared the deck for action. But in Washington itself some disappointment has been expressed that the steps intended to be taken by the United States to ensure deliveries to Great Britain have not been clearly defined. The statement that goods for Great Britain can be delivered, must be delivered and will be delivered is very heartening, because it means and implies that active measures will be taken against U-boats and bombing planes. He said later that he had no intention of asking for the repeal of the Neutrality Act as freedom of the seas could be secured in compatibility with that Act. But there is yet no clear indication what these measures are, though the President has very wide powers, including those of carrying on an undeclared war. He is a great tactician and wishes naturally to take American public opinion with him.

THREE BETRAYALS

VICHY

The French people themsleves have not yet been told the full story of the crooked proceedings by which Admiral Darlan, who recently visited Hitler in Germany, has signed away most of the remaining shreds of his country's honour to satisfy his own ambitions. The heart of France is not in this business.

The agreement with Berlin which the Vichy Government approved on May 14 includes a few meagre German concessions. The levy for the German occupation is reduced from the fantastic sum of 400 million francs a day to the scarcely less preposterous figure of 300 millions—which is still twice as much as the occupation actually costs, and more than twice as much as Germany was ever asked to pay under the Dawes Plan after the last war. A trickle of returning French prisoners shows the callous manner in which Hitler uses as bargaining counters the human beings that total war has placed in his power.

But what of the price? One day the French people will find out that despite all the endeavours and assurances of the tired old Marshal Petain, Darlan and his confederates have lined France up with the Axis. They are deliberately affording military assistance to their inveterate enemy against an ally whose conduct towards France during all these difficult and dangerous months has been, in the circumstances, remarkably forbearing.

The first results of the Vichy betrayal have appeared in Syria, over which France legally forfeited her mandate when she recently resigned, again under Nazi pressure, from the League of Nations. Speciously excused by General Dentz, German aircraft have landed at French aerodromes in Syria, where they have been promptly attacked by the Royal Air Force, while the ever-watchful Royal Navy has mined Syrian waters.

If the French heavy equipment now in Syria should become available to the enemy, the gravity of the situation would be increased. But there is no question of the British Command being unprepared, and reinforcements are constantly arriving in Iraq and Palestine.

America has not been deceived by the Vichy treachery and its consequences. President Roosevelt has condemned the dishonourable and suicidal collaboration policy, and has taken measures which show his recognition of the increased danger to the United States of America.

"Marshal Petain's action means that a decisive phase of the war has begun for the United States" writes Walter Lippman in the New York *Herald Tribune*. "France is misled," declares the *New York Times* "but the spirit of France lives and will rise again."

The spirit of Free France has been heard in General Catroux's broadcast to Frenchmen in Syria. "There is a name for this," he said. "It is called assistance to the enemy. It is called treason."

RASHID ALI

The final proof of Rashid Ali's guilt is provided by the German move to bring him belated assistance through Syria.

While others fought bravely and successfully outside the citadel, the Iraqi usurper has opened the gates to the enemy. His treachery is blacker than that of certain hard-pressed Balkan governments which merely betrayed their own people and, in consequence, endangered their neighbours. The rebel Junta in Baghdad, on the other hand, has for private gain not merely thrown Iraq in the path of the German war-chariot, but has also broken faith with Iraq's British ally and benefactor, and has made the first breach in Islam for the hated penetration of Nazism.

History will not easily forgive those who opened the gate, endangering their own people and other Asiatic nations who trusted in the Middle Eastern bulwark against aggression.

Since the lapse of the Caliphate under the late Kamal Ataturk, it is no longer strictly speaking possible to summon Islam authoritatively to a Jehad. That does not mean that the sentiments of the Muslim world cannot be expressed, or its sympathies rallied in a just cause.

British action in Iraq, which is being resolutely maintained, has been justified not only by events but by responsible Muslim opinion in adjacent countries. In all Arab lands the contrast has been noted between Britain's policy of protection and her patient labours towards constitutional advance on the one hand, and on the other the Axis record of ruthless ambition, stained with such crimes as have made the name of Graziani, "the scourge of Libya," hated throughout the Arab world.

Hired and irresponsible Quislings have brought it about that the struggle must now proceed within Islamic countries instead of at the outposts where British Indian and Dominion forces have faithfully kept guard.

From those outposts the news is good. The Duke of Aosta's surrender in Abyssinia leaves only scattered bodies of Italians to be disposed of in that vast area which until so recently was Mussolini's prized empire. The operations around Sollum clearly show that the offensive spirit is indomitably cherished by the British and Imperial troops protecting Egypt, and that General Wavell's reputation is well earned for striking at the right place and the right moment. Crete and Tobruk are being as stoutly held as Mr. Churchill has promised, and the latter is an exceedingly sharp thorn in Hitler's side.

THE NIZAM'S VERDICT

"The immediate cause of the present trouble is the treachery of Rashid Ali, who became a prey to German designs. I strongly appeal to Muslims in India to join with me in expressing our unqualified disapproval of the action of Rashid Ali and his clique, who have offended against one of the most solemn precepts of Islam which is to honour the pledged word."

H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad, in his manifesto of May 17.

RUDOLF HESS

Nazi Germany herself has a traitor in the headlines. Rudolf Hess is a deserter. Hitler's closest friend has sought saunctary with Hitler's deadliest enemies. "The first rate to leave the sinking ship" commented an Egyptian paper when the news of Hess's melodramatic flight became known. "And a big rat at that", added a Swedish paper.

Whatever emerges in the future about this valuable British prisoner, this much is already clear. The ex-deputy-Feuhrer, despite frenzied and self-contradictory Nazi "explanations", is sane—sane enough at all events to make a well-calculated escape from the madhouse.

Hess's desertion may or may not have provided the British Government already with highly important information. It has at any rate shown the world that one of the most responsible and popular party figures in Germany has no confidence in a Nazi victory. And it cannot have been without its effect inside Germany.

The strange episode reveals, in Churchill's words, "the maggot in the apple", it is a portent of ultimate victory for Britain. But the German military machine is still not seriously impaired, and is about to put to the hazard all its past gains and all its future hopes of world domination.

The united efforts of the peoples of the British Commonwealth of Nations and of their Allies will be stretched to the limits to hold this effort until the vast resources of Britain and America are fully mobilized.

"IT IS NOT SO BAD IN BEXHILL"

The following are portions of a letter which has reached Madras from Bexhill. Though it is dated middle of March, its interest is quite fresh.

"You've all been splendid in Madras with your half-million for the Spitfires. If you *only knew* what spitfires mean to us! To see them streak across the sky after the alert has sounded and to see them fighting and then see the Heinkel or whatever it is crash down and then hear the glorious 'All Clear' it's all too marvellous. Now it is almost routine; any day suddenly that awful shriek of the warning, then a pause, then the Spitfires racing towards Dover, then another pause, and then 'All Clear' and the Spitfires racing back in perfect formation. It's wonderful."

"Before, it was ages before the 'All Clear' went but now the sky is full of British planes. Last night for instance the alert was at 8 o'clock and the 'All Clear' at 11. Of course we are lucky here; they don't deliberately bomb Bexhill, just unload when they are being chased but the result is the same to the 'bombee.'"

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

" My brave Hess...... " (Mein Kampf)

On the night of Saturday, May 10, Rudolf Hess, Deputy-Fuehrer of Germany and Leader of the Nazi Party, flew to Scotland in a Messerschmitt fighter which could not carry enough petrol to return to Germany. He baled out by parachute and the plane crashed with its gun unloaded. He brought photographs of himself at different ages to establish his identity. He is now a prisoner in the hands of the British whom he so often declared would be defeated by Germany.

As soon as Hess's flight was discovered, the Nazi radio began to declare in all languages that the Deputy-Fuehrer had been suffering from " an illness of many years' standing." Yet he had not been relieved from his posts. Less than a month before he made his get-away, he had broadcast fulsome birthday greetings to Hitler. " The blessings of the Almightly will be with Germany," he said on April 20, " blessings which up to now have been so obvious and plentiful, ever since you became our Fuehrer".

Hess's Hallucinations

" Hess has long been suffering from hallucinations." screamed Dr. Goebbels, as the world began to chuckle at the spectacle of Hitler's closest friend seeking sanctuary with Hitler's deadliest enemies.

Here are a few of the hallucinations of Hess :—

> " Whatever Hitler does is right; whatever he does is necessary; and whatever he does is successful...... "
>
> Sept. 7, 1938.

> " Our Fuehrer and the unity of the German nation are the best guarantees for final victory ".
>
> May 1, 1940

> " Whether our soldiers happen to be separated from their foes by walls of concrete or merely by water, the German armed forces are absolutely sure of being victorious in this struggle."
>
> Dec. 25, 1940.

" If anything should happen to Hess........ " (Hitler, 1939)

Before the British Ministry of Information told the world just what had happened to Hess, the Berlin radio was busy with surmises that he had " crashed or met with an accident in the course of his flight," undertaken against the strict orders of the Fuehrer himself. Once his fate had become known, the Nazis began throwing out a smoke-screen of conjecture designed first of all to hide their dismay and bewilderment, and secondly to discount in advance the value of anything the fugitive might say subsequently.

In a single brief communique on May 14, for instance, no less than three different theories were advanced by Goebbels' perspiring propagandists. " Hess was under the hallucination that, by undertaking a personal step in connection with Englishmen with whom he was formerly acquainted, it might be possible to bring about an understanding between Germany and Britain......... An attempt is being made to determine to what extent certain mesmerists and astrologers are responsible for his taking the step he did....... It is also conceivable that Hess was deliberately lured into a trap by Britain."

On May 17, only three days after declaring that Hess was suffering from hallucinations and was under the influence of mesmerists and astrologers, Berlin remarked naively : " Hess is not so demented as not to know how hopeless Britain's position is.... he went to Britain with an honest proposal of peace, a fact which has all along been known in Germany."

British and German air losses

As was pointed out in this report last week, Dr. Goebbels had recently been suspiciously silent regarding German air losses in Western Europe, including Britain. On May 12, however, Berlin came out with a statement that whereas the British lost 36 aircraft between May 9 and May 11, only 18 German machines were lost in that period. In actual fact, from dawn on May 9 to the small hours following midnight on May 11, Britain lost only 16 planes (20 less than the Germans claimed), while the Nazis lost 58, exactly 40 more than they admitted.

Inadvertently, however, Berlin let slip the real truth two days previously, when Walt Mittler, one of their aeronautical commentators, remarked : " The British claim to have inflicted very heavy losses on German bombers recently, and it would be very silly of me to quarrel over the numbers that have actually been shot down by the British."

British and Allied shipping

Side by side with grandiloquent claims to have sunk vast numbers of British ships all over the seven seas, Berlin coolly remarked

on May 12 that " Britain is always endeavouring to spare her own ships and is forcing non-British ships to sail to destruction under the British flag."

Britain's endeavours to " spare her own ships " are illustrated by Mr. Churchill's recent statement that, at the present time, Britain has always at least 2,000 ships sailing the high seas. As for these imaginary attempts " to force non-British ships to sail to destruction under the British flag, " all the world knows that the Norwegian, Dutch, Belgian, Polish, Greek and Yugoslav Governments have expressed their unshakeable determination to carry on the war in collaboration with Britain, and the freely-offered use of their merchant fleets forms one of their most important contributions to final victory.

Those territorial claims again

An article in the *Boersen Zeitung*, quoted by the German wireless on May 12, is at great pains to stress the fact that Germany has ' no territorial claims ' in the Balkans. This in itself is a most ominous statement, and the peoples of the Balkans may well feel perturbed, for it is part of Hitler's time-worn technique to disavow all intentions of annexation just before springing on his prey.

It will be remembered that, despite frequent declarations that he had no more territorial claims after the Austrian Anschluss, Hitler proceeded to annex parts of Czechoslovakia, half of Poland, the whole of Alsace and Lorraine and the districts of Eupen and Malmedy in Belgium. Bulgaria and Hungary, too, are to all intents and purposes parts of the Greater German Reich, while Rumania has been carved up without scruple to feed the greed of Hitler's flunkey-neighbours. The new 'independent" state of Croatia, which has (for form's sake) been presented with a puppet king from the Italian Royal House, is obviously designed to become an economic adjunct not of Italy, but of Germany herself.

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

Raids over Britain

Dr. Goebbels' Hindustani and Persian broadcasters of May 16 went out of their way to quote a vague Stockholm report which, according to the Nazis, stated that British statesmen were becoming " confused " over the immense destruction caused in Britain. Actually it was the Swedish paper *Svenska Dagbladet* which recently published a message from their London correspondent. This communication reads as follows :—" According to my observations the Germans need 100 years to reduce the industrial capacity of England even if they go on bombing at the same rate as now. The bombing of the business centres and industrial quarters only strengthens the British in their efforts to bear any sacrifice that the war may be won ".

Increasing American Aid

The Nazis in their Hindustani broadcast of May 16 endeavoured to make out that Great Britain's reduced shipping now enabled her to bring only very little armament stores to Britain. In the light of this false German statement, it is worth mentioning that during the month of March, when Britain's losses in the Atlantic were heavier than they have been in any single month so far, the arms shipments were of the total value of $49,196,000, which is 33 per cent higher than the February shipments, valued at $31,415,000. The materials that Britain received included war planes worth $21,715,000.

The Nazis' chagrin at America's aid to Britain was also clearly evident in their Hindustani broadcast of May 18 when we were told that England was falling into a trap laid by the U. S. A. The Germans may not be able to understand, much less appreciate, the fact of one democracy going to the aid of another; but the American attitude was defined by Mr. John G. Winant, the U. S. Ambassador in Britain, who, when addressing the English-speaking Union, declared : " The freedom-loving and peace-loving peoples of this earth are coming to realize that this is not Britain's fight alone. When the dictators conspire together, men and women of goodwill everywhere must act together."

Cold Steel

On May 16, Berlin's Hindustani broadcast painted a lurid picture of increasing strikes in the U. S. A. and, in particular, mentioned that 35,000 workers in the General Motors Company had gone on strike. Actually the difference between the management and the workers of the General Motors has been amicably settled. And as for the general industrial position in the U. S. A., despite Nazi activities, the country is producing steel faster than all the steel mills of Germany and the most powerful 35,000-ton battleship of the U. S. A. the *Washington*, has been commissioned six months ahead of the schedule.

Exports and U-boats

The Nazi bombast, broadcast in their Hindustani, Persian and Arabic news of May 13, that British ships were not safe on any sea is categorically countered by the fact that despite the Nazi depredations on the high seas,

and despite air attacks on ports and industrial districts, Britain's export figures for the first three months of this year substantially exceeded the figures for the last three months of 1940. The safe arrival in England of the first batch of Indian trainees under the "Bevin Scheme" is another indication of the British mastery of the seas.

Berlin's Hindustani broadcast of May 12 was anxious to make out that shipping losses for April 1941 had caused panic among the British. Considering that April's figure included 187,000 tons sunk in the Mediterranean and that in the Battle of the Atlantic Britain actually lost 90,000 tons *less* than she did in March, there is no reason for Britons to get panicky.

Moreover, as the Turkish paper *Vatan* points out: "The British shipping losses during the first eighteen months of the war amount only to 3 per cent of the total British mercantile marine. The shipping of Britain's allies is two to three times as great as the British losses in tonnage. Consequently, the British mercantile marine is stronger to-day than she was in 1939."

Nazis and Muslims

The Nazis are so hard pressed to invent stories of Arab discontent against the British in Palestine that their Hindustani and Arabic broadcasts of May 13 had to quote reports from Uruguay—in South America, 7,000 miles from Palestine—alleging intensification of Royal Air Force attacks on Palestine. Inasmuch as the Royal Air Force has not attacked Palestine at all, there can be no question of their intensifying these so-called raids.

Similarly, in their broadcasts of May 17, the Nazis talked of the British atrocities in Palestine, and also quoted the Muslim leader of Croatia as saying that a brilliant future awaited the Muslims under Hitler. It will be recalled that despite differences with the British the Palestinians decided to co-operate in defeating the common enemy. The *Palestine* declared: "The Arabs now set aside their local issues in order to play their role in this world conflict, cherishing the hope that when justice emerges victorious they will be adequately rewarded for their loyalty." And as for the Muslim future under the Axis, the Muslims have only to remember the Italian policy towards Libya, Albania and Abyssinia. As against this black record of the Axis is the British record. Egypt, Iraq, Transjordania, Saudi Arabia, which in 1914 were all subject countries, are now either independent States or far on the way to independence.

Britain and her Allies

The Nazis' Persian broadcast of May 14 ascribed to a Syrian newspaper the statement that the British had selfishly sacrificed their allies. That this German libel is grossly untrue is proved by these allies themselves, who, despite their present difficulties, are rendering Britain invaluable aid. Thus the fact that the Norwegian and the Greek navies and the Polish air force are co-operating with Britain is most significant. Besides, in every instance Britain responded immediately to her allies' appeals for help. She is still waging a relentless war against the common enemy and therefore upholding their interests.

A German Blunder

The Nazis' Hindustani and Persian broadcasts of May 13 vaguely referred to a despatch from Ankara stating that Britain's so-called defeat in Greece had made a deep impression. Turkey's reaction to the German war on the Balkans was far from complimentary to the German leaders. The Turkish paper *Cumhuriyet* observed: "Germany has brought the war to the Balkans because she knows that she cannot defeat the British people. Every German who dies, every German aircraft which is shot down, every German bullet which is fired during German attacks against Yugoslavia and Greece will constitute a loss for Germany on the front of the British Isles, where the decisive issue of the war will be fought."

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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